SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

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In this study, the prevalence of pulmonary ventilatory changes and immunoglobulin patterns among workers exposed to chicken were investigated. The study was conducted in 10 chicken breeding farms in Kalubia Governorate.

The study included 2 groups. The first one was the group exposed to chicken (100 workers) randomly selected from the different chicken breeding farms. The second group included 50 farmers who were randomly selected as non exposed group.

Full clinical examination and measuring ventilatory functions, serum immunoglobulins levels and skin testing were carried out for both groups. The following were obtained:

1- The prevalence of chest symptoms were higher among workers exposed to chicken than among non exposed.
2- The longer the duration of exposure to chicken antigens, the more prevalent the chest symptoms.
3- Chest wheeze, rhonchi and crepitations were higher among workers exposed to chicken than among non exposed.
4- Considering the mean values of pulmonary ventilatory measurements they were statistically significantly lower among exposed than those among non exposed workers.
5- The longer the duration of exposure, the more lowering in pulmonary ventilatory functions.

6- Concerning the mean values of immunoglobulins they were statistically significantly higher among exposed than among non-exposed workers.

7- It was found that 80% of the exposed group workers +ve had skin test results.

8- Among the exposed group workers the type of occupation revealed no difference in concern with skin test results or immunoglobulins titre while there was statistically significant difference in between the different occupations regarding pulmonary ventilatory functions.

From this research work it is concluded that workers who were exposed to chicken had higher prevalence of chest manifestations, immunoglobulins titre, more positive skin test result and lower pulmonary ventilatory functions and this might be due to chicken antigens exposure.